

# San Luis Obispo County Off-Highway Vehicle License Fund Proposal Application

**Submittal Date:** October 30, 2015

**Applicant Information:**

William Bordeaux, Manager  
Cuesta Ridge Road Association  
P.O. Box 13057  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
805-441-8312  
[bill@stationengineer.com](mailto:bill@stationengineer.com)

**Title of project** – Rehabilitation of West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28), County of San Luis Obispo, CA.

**Amount of funding requested** – The total expected project cost is \$1,701,150. In accordance with the Operation and Maintenance category of the Allowable Uses identified in the Public Resource Code, Section 5090.50. The applicant is willing to accept partial funding of this request. This application is submitted in conjunction with a road use group stakeholders of communications lease holders who would also contribute to the total project cost. Funding through OHV is sought to provide contribution for road upgrades for the public access component of the project.

**5. Project Description** - This project proposes to rehabilitate 7.1 miles West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) using cold recycle in place technology and the cement treating and re-installation of existing road surfaces, rock and native material. The treated base material will be overlaid with hot mix asphalt. Drainage improvements will be installed to protect and increase the service life of the road.

**6. Project Objective** – This project will restore the 7.1 mile segment of West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) to a safe and serviceable condition. The restoration of this road will re-establish access to the public for non-motorized recreation activities, access to the critical communication facilities along the ridge, and will provide public safety emergency access/egress and for fire-fighting efforts.

This requested project is complete (standalone) and is not part of a larger project and has no prior investment. San Luis Obispo County Off-Highway Motor Vehicle License Grant funds will be used for the preparation of project plans and specifications, for contractor construction costs and for construction contract management activities.

**7. Project completion schedule** – The anticipated project schedule is as follows:

Design Start: July 5, 2016.

Bidding: January 2, 2017.

Construction Start Date: May 1, 2017.

Construction Completion Date: Oct 15, 2017.

**8. Justification for project, explanation of public benefit, expected frequency of use, number of users, type of users and alternatives** – West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) is currently in extremely poor repair (USFS will be installing a gate over the next 12-month due to conditions and need for repairs). This project will benefit the public by re-establishing access to the Los Padres National Forest and to the recreational opportunities of its' Santa Lucia Mountain Range. There is a public demand for recreation in the Los Padres National Forest. Activities such as mountain biking, hiking, bird-watching, and scenic opportunities are available. The Cuesta Ridge Botanical Area (located approximately mile 5) is an instructional opportunity for unique plant life; it is open to the public. There are also bird watching opportunities and population studies (citizen science) are conducted annually. The restoration of West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) will re-establish safe access to the public for these uses.

It is our understanding that without temporary repairs planned for this winter (limited filling of giant potholes and washouts, limited to the first mile), the road will be considered unsafe and impassable, even for high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles. Response to fire and/or medical emergencies in the area served by the road is a concern to the Agencies. Communication facility operators are also currently at risk when responding to equipment failures, often during storm events.

Rehabilitation of this road is absolutely necessary to provide adequate safety to the public road user and for response to emergencies. Once the road is restored to an adequate and maintainable structural section, it is our understanding that the road improvement association will be primarily responsible for the maintenance of the road. It is anticipated that the County of San Luis Obispo will also contribute annually to the maintenance of the road for their ongoing access needs from OHV revenues. It is not known to what extent the Forest Service will be able to participate in the maintenance of the road.

Historically, West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) users have primarily been members of the public, driving legal vehicles pursuing non-motorized recreational opportunities such as mountain biking, hiking and sight-seeing. Road users also include radio and television communication facility lease holders and their tenants. The Forest Service patrols the road for law enforcement, recreation and fire prevention services. Cal Fire and the County Sherriff respond to emergencies when they are needed. The number of public motorists seeking recreational opportunities on TV Tower Road/Forest Route 29S28 has not been determined. The public use of the road has declined as the condition has deteriorated. There are nineteen communication facility lease-holders that utilize the road. An additional 60 tenants of communications lease-holders (estimated) also utilize the road periodically. Each communication

facility lease holder and their tenants visit the site as needed for maintenance, at least once a week (80-trips per week).

Other than this proposal, there are no alternatives available for re-establishing public access and access to the critical communication facilities along the ridge, or for providing public safety emergency access/egress and fire-fighting efforts.

**9. Long-range plans and maintenance of the Project** – Funding mechanisms are currently being established by Agreement of the Stakeholders for the maintenance of West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) in perpetuity.

**10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps** – The 7.1-mile length project is located primarily in the Los Padres National Forest, San Luis Obispo County. The beginning of the road restoration is located at the intersection of West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) and Stage Coach Road. The end of the project construction is located at the Tassajara Peak driveway. The road travels across a parcel of private land with easements, lands of the Federal Government, and some State of California lands. The land is managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). Please see the attached project location map.

**11. Land owner authorization to complete Project** – The work proposed is on a National Forest Service System road. A Cooperative Road Agreement between the Forest Service and the County will allow the County to design, contract for, and administer the work. The agreement will require funding for the forest service to perform all required environmental analyses, including any monitoring that may be necessary during the construction phase.

**12. History of condition and/or status of resource and expected benefits from project** - West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) is the only access route to maintain communication facilities providing critical state and county government communications, cellular, local television, rail and utility communications. The road also serves the Los Padres National Forest; the restoration of safe public access is urgently needed.

Constructed by AT&T in the early 1960's for the installation of a DOD nuclear resistant communications facility, the road has received little maintenance. Currently, West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) is in such disrepair that only high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles can negotiate it, hampering access for communication system maintenance and recreational use.

Mountain biking is a popular activity along West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) and in our county. There are a number of bike shops in the county which are believed will benefit with the increased opportunities for recreation that this project provides. It is believed that long term, indirectly created jobs in the recreation, tourism and hospitality services sectors will be created in San Luis Obispo County as a result of this project.

Several hiking trails traverse the west Cuesta Ridge area and lead to trail systems in the Poly Canyon/Stenner Creek area. Access also affords the public spectacular views of the Chorro Valley and Morros; in particular, those who may not be physically able to hike or bike.

Restoration of this road will re-establish adequate safety to the public road users and to life safety agencies for response to emergencies.

**13. Design plans or any information necessary for complete review** - Due to the significant resources required to prepare a detailed plan, a detailed rehabilitation plan have not yet been developed. Preliminary unit costs have been investigated with a qualified contractor familiar with the CIP reclamation process. The West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) rehabilitation overlay and location exhibits are attached. A photograph of the road is attached.

**14. Detailed descriptions and estimated costs of expenditures related to the project.** No more than 10 percent of the requested funding may be applied to administrative cost associated with the project – An Engineer's Estimate of project costs is attached.

**15. Amount of matching funds, materials and/or volunteer efforts that are designated toward this project** – Matching funds are being collected from communication facility stakeholders. They anticipate collecting and designating at least \$45,000 toward the repair of TV Tower Road/Forest Route 29S28 by July, 2016.

**16. Experience of applicant completing similar projects to the grant being applied for** - The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works has offered their assistance in preparing a contract for the work and identifying competitive bidders. The County has experience with road pulverization and reclamation projects and regularly contracts for and manages multi-million dollar overlay and micro-surface paving projects.

**17. Response to how your project meets the Allowable Use Criteria and the Grant Application Evaluation Criteria for the category you are applying for** - This project meets the intent of an allowable use in the Operation and Maintenance category, item (b). This project will improve facilities that provide motorized access to non-motorized recreation activities.

Attachments –

Location Map

Engineer's Estimate of Costs

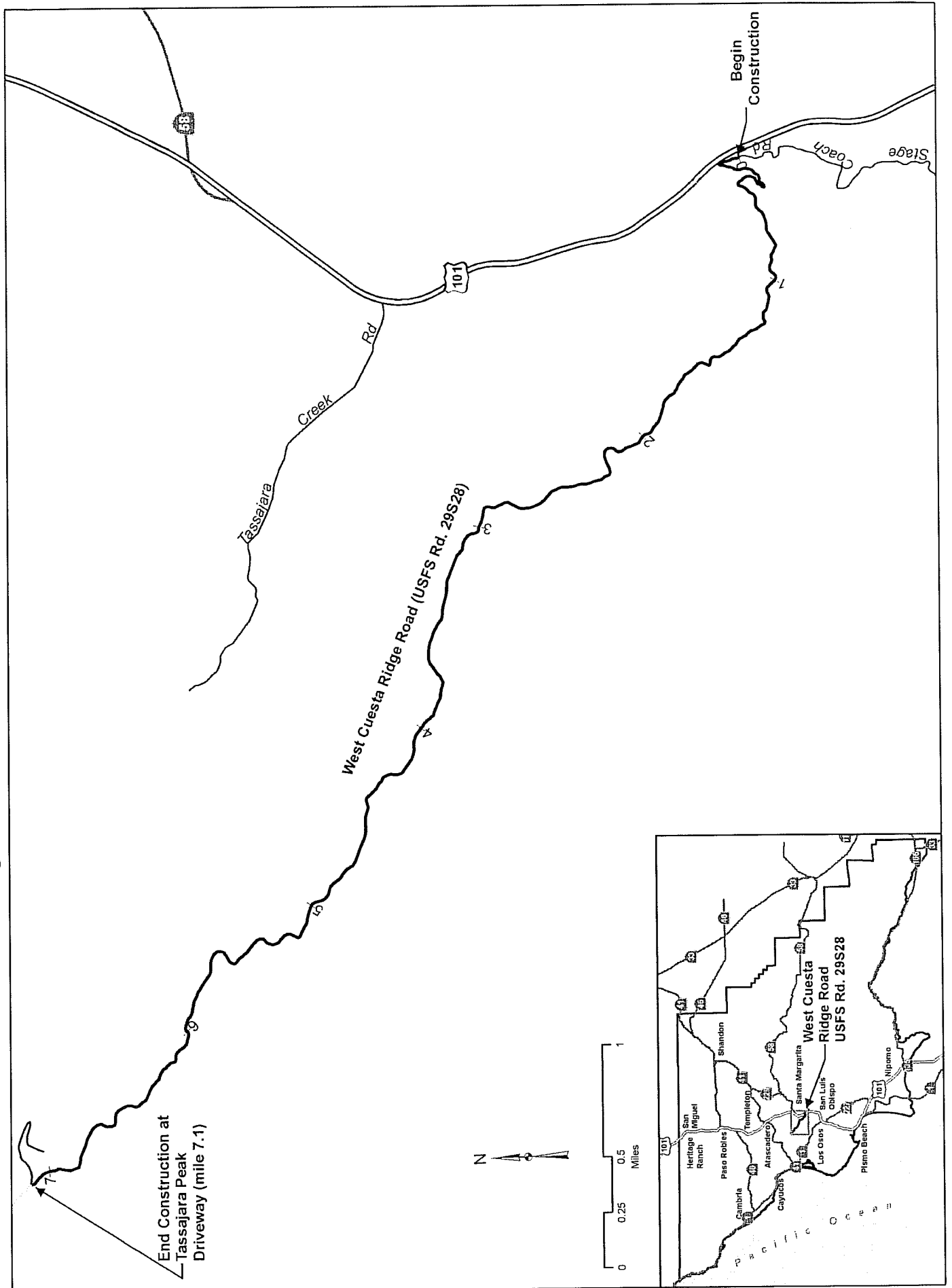
Structural Section Detail

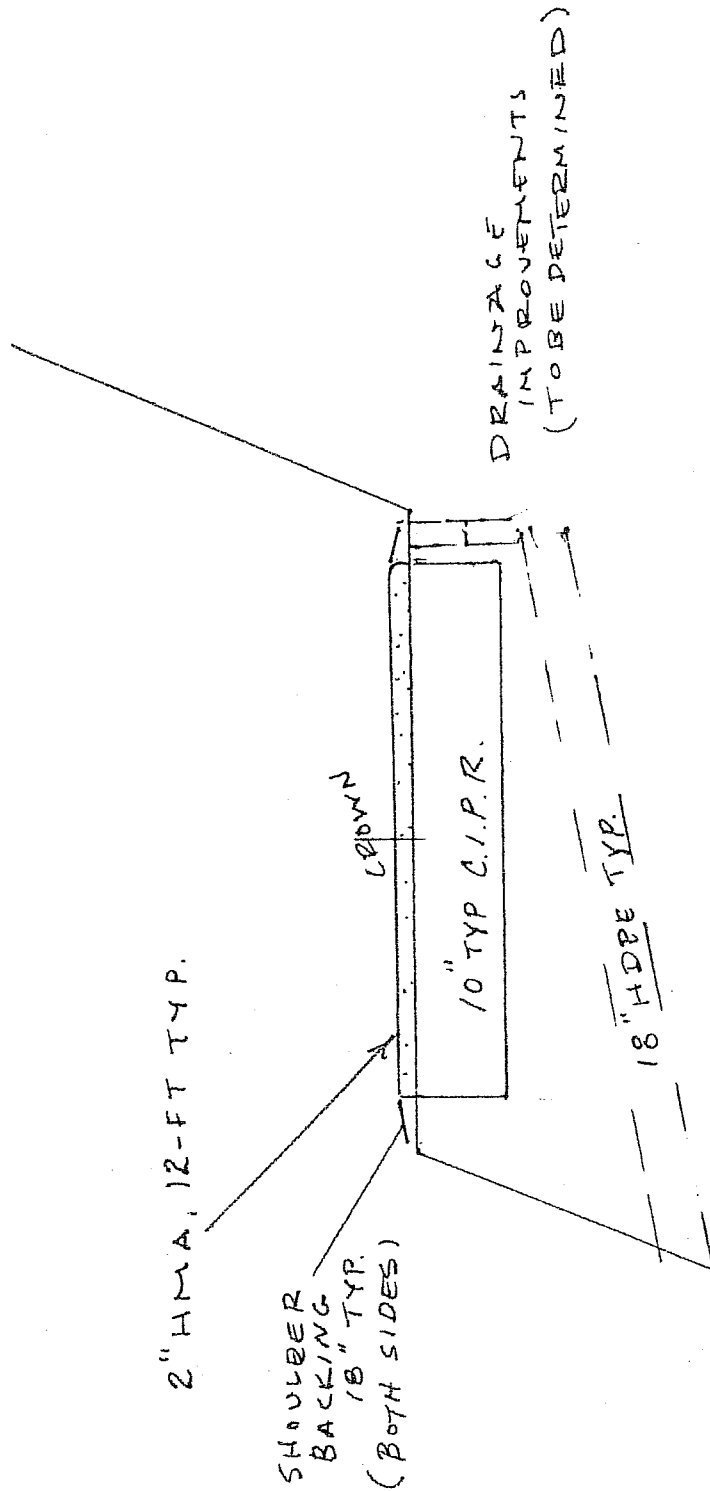
Photo - Mile 0-1, USFS, page 1 of 5, May, 2015

Cal Fire/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, Chief Robert Lewin to Elizabeth Kavanaugh, County of SLO Parks & Recreation Department

USDA, Robert Baird, Forest Supervisor, to County of San Luis Obispo Park and Recreation Commission, via Nick Franco, Director, County of SLO Parks & Recreation Department, October 21, 2015.

# West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) Rehabilitation and Overlay





TYPICAL SECTION

West Cuesta Ridge Road (USFS Rd. 29S28) Rehabilitation and Overlay

**Rehabilitation of West Cuesta Ridge Road/USFS Rd. 29S8, County of San Luis Obispo, CA**  
**Engineer's Estimate of Costs**

Line Item	Class	Description	Unit	Quantity	
1	74017	Prepare Water Pollution Control Program (SWPPP)	LS	LUMP SUM	6,000
2	74028	Temporary Fiber Roll	LF	14000	33,000
3	120090	Construction Area Signs	LS	LUMP SUM	1,600
4	120100	Traffic Control System	LS	LUMP SUM	30,000
5		Pulverize Roadbed/Cold In-Place Recycle - 12-feet	STA	375	360,000
6	170101	Develop Water Supply	LS	LUMP SUM	10,000
7	198007	Imported Material (Shoulder Backing)	TON	1800	36,000
8	390132	12-Foot Hot Mix Asphalt, 2" (Type A)	TON	6000	540,000
9	820108	Delineator (Class 2)	EA	80	2,400
10	203032	Erosion Control (Hydroseed)	LS	LUMP SUM	6,000
11		Adjust Guardrail	LS	LUMP SUM	6,000

Subtotal 1,031,000

12	Various Road Segment Widening (20%)	206,200
13	Drainage Improvements/Dike (15%)	154,650
14	Engineering and Administration (10%)	103,100
15	Construction Inspection (15%)	154,650
16	Contingency (5%)	51,550

Total 1,701,150

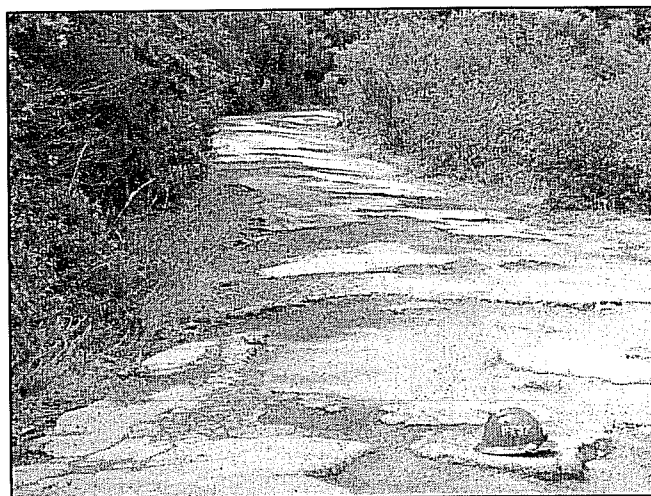
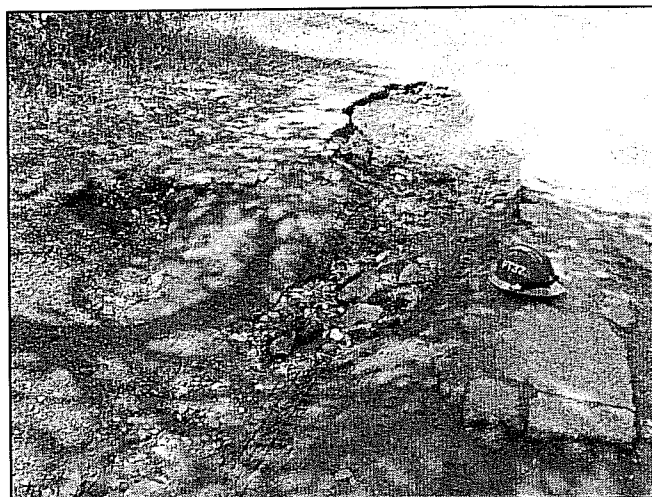
**Notes:**

Roadway Excavation is NOT anticipated with CIPR  
Class 2 Aggregate Base is NOT employed with CIPR  
Double Chip Seal Coat is an available option - depending on loading  
CIPR - 8" to 10" Cement Treated section; ready for overlay

10/30/2015

Photo Log: West Cuesta Ridge Road, FS Road Number 29S28, May 2015

Mile 0-1:







**File Code:** 1500; 7730  
**Date:** October 21, 2015

Nick Franco  
Director, County of San Luis Obispo Park and Recreation Commission  
County of San Luis Obispo Parks & Recreation Department  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Franco:

The Los Padres National Forest would like to express our support for the Cuesta Ridge Improvement Association's application for the Off-Highway Vehicle License Fund Proposal Application for funding rehabilitation of West Cuesta Ridge Road (A.K.A. TV Tower Road). The road rehabilitation project will result in safe access to the area for the public and communication site users.

West Cuesta Ridge Road, National Forest System Route 29S28, serves as critical access to Cuesta Peak and Tassajera Peak Communication Sites. The road begins at the junction of U.S. Highway 101 at Cuesta Grade Summit and West Cuesta Ridge Road, and continues 7.1 miles northwesterly to Tassajera Peak. Over the years, the condition of the road has deteriorated to a point it can only be traversed with extreme caution by high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles.

There are nineteen communication facility lease-holders that utilize the road. An additional 60 tenants of communications lease-holders (estimated) also utilize the road periodically. Cuesta Peak Communication Site includes broadcast uses and Tassajera Communication Site includes non-broadcast uses. Communication uses include AM/FM radio broadcasting, television, cable television, cellular phone systems, internet service providers, private and commercial mobile radio systems, telephone exchanges, fiber optic telephone line and amateur radio. Other uses include powerlines, resource monitoring and a water tank. Each communication facility lease holder and their tenants visit the site as needed for maintenance, at least once a week (80-trips per week).

West Cuesta Ridge Road also serves as a spectacular scenic drive with vistas of the "Seven Sisters" geologic formation, which terminates at Morro Rock in the Pacific Ocean. The road also accesses the "Cuesta Botanical Area" located between Cuesta and Tassajera Peaks, which is 1,304 acres of Sargent cypress and several other species of sensitive plants. The road is located immediately North of the City of San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and is a very popular recreational destination for students and residents.

I support the effort along with San Luis Obispo County leaders. Please contact District Ranger Nathan Rezeau at 805-925-9538, if you have questions on this matter.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Baird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "R" being large and prominent.

ROBERT BAIRD  
Forest Supervisor



**CAL FIRE**  
**San Luis Obispo**  
**County Fire Department**

635 N. Santa Rosa • San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
Phone: 805-543-4244 • Fax: 805-543-4248  
[www.calfireslo.org](http://www.calfireslo.org)

*Robert Lewin, Fire Chief*

October 27, 2015

Elizabeth Kavanaugh, Park Planner III  
San Luis Obispo County Parks  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: OHV Funds

Dear Ms. Kavanaugh,

This letter is to demonstrate our support and recommendation for granting OHV funds for making much needed improvements to the West Cuesta Ridge /TV Tower Road and to Hi Mountain Road. Currently these roads are impassible by most vehicles. Travel on these roads by fire engines is limited to four-wheel drive and they must travel at extremely slow speeds to prevent damage to the vehicle.

As you know, the West Cuesta Ridge Road is the access road for critical communication infrastructure that our agencies rely on. Further, many fire departments, law enforcement agencies as well as cellular services, rely on the access road to maintain and protect their communication sites. There are also public media sites located on the road that are important during an emergency to convey public service announcements on such things as evacuation.

Hi Mountain road is critical for access from the Lake Lopez area to the Pozo community and the wilderness areas of the Los Padres National Forest. Both roads are also used extensively for recreation including mountain bikers and hikers. We respond to many rescues that occur off these roads. Hi Mountain Road provides the evacuation route for the residences of the Ranchita Estates area.

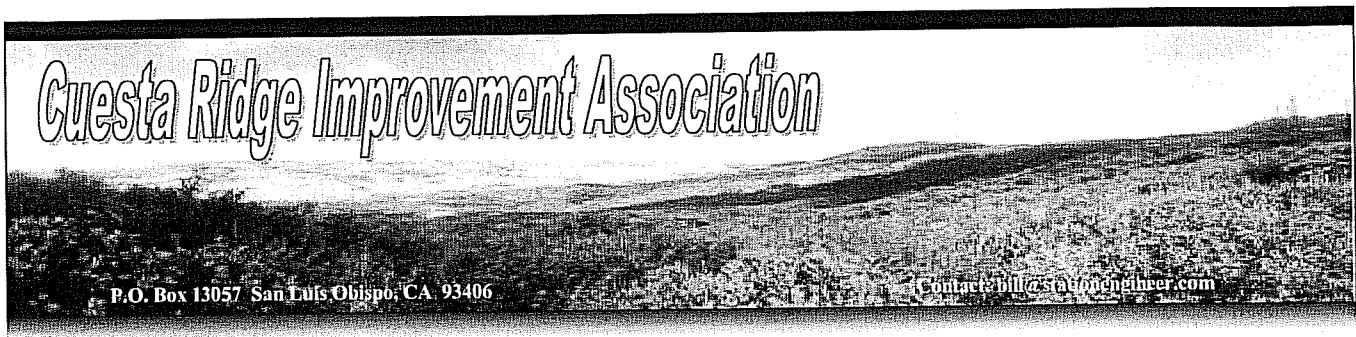
While the West Cuesta Ridge is all in the Los Padres Forest, the Direct Protection for wildland fires is CAL FIRE. The County Fire Department, which is also CAL FIRE, is responsible for all non-law enforcement emergencies. Because of CAL FIRE's responsibilities for this area, we have offered up our non-fiscal support in helping improve this road.

I know you join me in understanding the importance of bringing these roads back up to a level that will allow safe passage, without harm to vehicles and to provide access to critical infrastructure for maintenance and fire protection. Therefore, I recommend that OHV funds be provided to improve these two roads.

Sincerely,

Robert Lewin  
Unit Chief

Cc: Dave Flynn, County Public Works



October 26, 2015

Nick Franco  
 Director, County of San Luis Obispo Park and Recreation Commission  
 Count of San Luis Obispo Pars 7 Recreation Department  
 1087 Santa Rosa St.  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Franco:

On behalf of the membership of the Cuesta Ridge Improvement Association, we would like to thank you for this opportunity to be considered as a recipient of funds to repair and maintain TV Tower Road in the Los Padres National Forest. Our association has been formed to facilitate these repairs and insure on-going maintenance of this critical access road.

The citizens of San Luis Obispo County may not be aware of the critical communication sites this road serves. Not only are virtually all of the county's media outlets located on these peaks, but vital public safety communications, transportation, law enforcement, utility companies, cellular, cable television and internet backbone facilities are located there as well.

Since care of the road was abandoned by the U.S. Forest Service some 20 years ago, the road is now nearly impassable by normal means. The situation is so dire, the U.S. Forest Service will be temporarily closing the road to the public beginning in November 2015. Delivery of fuel to emergency power generators at the sites has been curtailed by several vendors due to road related safety concerns. During a recent association meeting, Cal Fire and other public safety agencies have expressed concerns that the condition of the road now compromises public safety.

The project to bring the road back to service will be a difficult and expensive one. The members of the association are committed to restoring this vital access to critical communications sites. It is expected that once it has been restored, the public will again be able to access the spectacular natural resource that is Cuesta Ridge.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at either my email address above, or my phone: 805-441-8312

Sincerely,

*William Bordeaux*

William Bordeaux  
 Director, Cuesta Ridge Improvement Association

Cuesta Ridge U.S. Forest Service Permit Holders				
Cuesta Peak			Tassajara Peak	
AT&T	KSBY Comm.	State of California	American Tower	SBA Towers
Charter Comm.	KTAS TV	T-Mobile	AT&T	Steven Smith
Coastal Towers	SLO County	Verizon	Crown Castle	Union Pacific Railroad
Crown Castle	SBA Towers		PG&E	US Dept. Of Justice
El Dorado Broadcasters	KEYT-TV		SLO County	US Geological Survey

From: Carolyn <ke6hng@att.net>  
To: nfranco@co.slo.ca.us,  
Date: 10/29/2015 07:50 AM  
Subject: Re: Grant for Repair of TV Tower Road

Would you please let me know if the County has applied for a Grant? I would like to solicit letters of support but I don't want to do that if there really isn't an application. Thanks you. Carolyn

On 10/28/2015 7:32 PM, nfranco@co.slo.ca.us wrote:

> Carolyn,

RECEIVED  
NOV 03 2015  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_



**AMERICAN  
GENERAL MEDIA**

October 29, 2015

Nick Franco  
Director, County of San Luis Obispo Park and Recreation  
Commission  
County of San Luis Obispo Parks & Rec Dept.  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

Dear Mr. Franco:

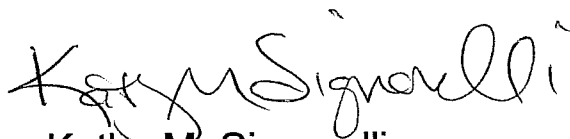
AGM California/San Luis Obispo operates four FM radio stations with our broadcast towers located on Cuesta Peak. We would like to express our strong support for the Cuesta Ridge Improvement Association's application for the Off-Highway Vehicle License Fund Proposal Application for funding rehabilitation of West Cuesta Ridge Road (TV Tower Road). The road rehabilitation project will result in safe access to the area for the public and all communication site users

Over the years, the condition of the road has deteriorated to a point only high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles can access. It is a high risk to all users.

Pg 2  
County SLO Rec & Parks

With 60 tenants of communications leaseholders, safe accessibility to West Cuesta Ridge Road is of extreme importance to our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathy M. Signorelli  
General Manager  
AGM-California

92.5 KKAL, 93.3 KZOZ, 98.1 KKJG, 104.5 KIQO



3620 Sacramento Dr. #204, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
O: 805 781 2750 F: 805 786 2828 [kathy@americangeneralmedia.com](mailto:kathy@americangeneralmedia.com)



**AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE**  
**Santa Barbara Section**

October 29, 2015

Mr. Nick Franco, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department  
County of San Luis Obispo  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: TV Tower Road Rehabilitation Funding Application

Dear Mr. Franco:

I am writing in support of the Cuesta Ridge Improvement Association's application for grant funding for rehabilitation of the West Cuesta Ridge Road (TV Tower Road). I serve as the elected official of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for the Santa Barbara Section (for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties).

The ARRL is the national organization representing over 167,000 amateur radio operators, and our particular interest in the application stems from the need for critical access to numerous public service communication sites located through this road. These amateur radio service sites are an integral part of local and area emergency communication resources. Over the past decade access to these communication sites has become increasingly hazardous because of the increasingly treacherous disrepair of the road.

These conditions result from the often expressed position of the U.S. Forest Service that it no longer has the funds to provide even modest repairs. Future USFS funding is likewise doubtful.

If your application efforts require any additional information from the ARRL, please contact me at 805-801-7292 or [K6YR@arrl.org](mailto:K6YR@arrl.org).

Sincerely,

**Robert E.  
Griffin**

Digitally signed by Robert E.  
Griffin  
DN: cn=Robert E. Griffin, o=ou,  
email=grifr@aol.com, c=US  
Date: 2015.10.28 12:08:39 -07'00'

Robert E. Griffin  
Santa Barbara Section Manager  
American Radio Relay League

1436 Johnson Avenue  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401